

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04097 172243Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /076 W
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P R 171023Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3942
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 4097

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SOPN, KS, US
SUBJECT: FURTHER KOREAN PRESS REACTION TO HABIB-BROWN VISIT
MAY 24

REF: SEOUL 4000 (DTG 130842Z MAY 77)

SUMMARY: WEEKEND COVERAGE OF HABIB-BROWN VISIT LEFT
FRONT PAGES AND WAS MORE SUBDUED, APPARENTLY REFLECTING
FONMIN'S COUNSEL TO PRESS. LATE LOCAL STORY IN TUESDAY
PRESS BROUGHT WELCOME PREDICTION OF "FLEXIBILITY" IN
U.S. PLAN. END SUMMARY.

1. OVER WEEKEND OF MAY 14-15, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON
MAY 24 VISIT OF GENERAL BROWN AND UNDERSECRETARY HABIB
APPEARING IN KOREAN PRESS WERE SOMEWHAT SUBDUED,
APPARENTLY SHOWING EFFECTS OF FONMIN PAK TON-JIN'S
REQUEST TO REPORTERS MAY 13 THAT PAPERS "BE MORE
CAREFUL" IN REPORTING TROOP WITHDRAWAL ISSUES, TO
AVOID "SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS."
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 04097 172243Z

HAN'GUK ILBO POLITICAL GOSSIP COLUMN QUOTED PAK FURTHER
AS EXPLAINING THAT ROKG'S BASIC POSITION IS TO HANDLE TALKS
"IN A BUSINESSLIKE AND QUIET MANNER."

2. OTHER ITEMS SUCH AS TONGA ILBO INSIDE FEATURE MAY 14
EMPHASIZED LENGTH OF TIME DURING WHICH ROKG HAS BEEN
PREPARING ITS POSITION (SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER'S INAUGURATION)

AND ROKG'S STRESS ON "SHARING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES." GREATEST WORRY OF NEWSPAPERS SEEMED TO BE THAT HABIB-BROWN VISIT MIGHT CONSTITUTE A "UNILATERAL NOTIFICATION" OF A U.S. PLAN FOR WITHDRAWAL.

3. TONGA WRITERS DID SOUND A FEW SOUR NOTES IN NOTING "ARBITRARY WAY" IN WHICH USG NOTIFIED ROKG OF VISIT "AT THE LAST MOMENT," QUOTING SPECULATION FROM DRP FIGURES THAT "GENERAL BROWN IS FAVORABLE TO KOREAN ISSUES WHILE HABIB IS OTHERWISE," AND NDP CHAIRMAN YI CH'OL-SUNG'S STATEMENTS THAT U.S. SIMULTANEOUS WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA AND REINFORCEMENT OF NATO TROOPS REPRESENTED "A WHITE-ORIENTED POLICY."

4. ON MAY 17, TONGA ILBO FRONT-PAGED LOCAL STORY, ATTRIBUTED TO "RELATED SOURCES," THAT PLAN HABIB AND BROWN WILL BRING WILL NOT BE UNILATERAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF A FINAL PLAN FOR WITHDRAWAL, BUT WILL BE FLEXIBLE. SOURCES ARE PORTRAYED AS PREDICTING THAT "SUFFICIENT DISCUSSIONS", WITH ROKG WILL TAKE PLACE, AND FINAL, DETAILED WITHDRAWAL PLANS WILL BE "RESULT OF PROLONGED CONSULTATIONS."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, VISITS, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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